



*An Advocate for Children,
Fathers & Stronger Families*

ATTEND AN HISTORIC bipartisan and bicameral Symposium on Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement to be held at the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, eight miles west of the State Capitol.

This symposium is convened by The Strong Families Commission Incorporated in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit; AMACHI, Inc.; Child Welfare League of America, Inc.; Delta Community Supports, Inc.; and the Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania.

LEGISLATIVE SPONSORS

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For more information, contact:
Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, ACSW
NASW Social Work Pioneer*
info@iawfpa.com

thestrongfamiliescommission.com



STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM ON Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

In America, we like to think that in the best set of circumstances most children are raised by their biological parents in a healthy, supportive environment, and never experience disruption of their parents' emotional, social, physical, intellectual, spiritual or financial support. However, the U.S. Census Bureau Reports that 31% of our children are living with either a single parent or no parent at all (23% with mother, 4% with father, and 4% with no parent). The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center show that nearly 25 million (24,444,000) or 35% of American children lived in single parent families. In Pennsylvania the number is 914,000 or 36% of the child population. The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) declares that the incidence of the impact of both parents not being "present" in the lives of their children, most often fathers, is a contributing factor to the number of children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems of care. Children with involved Fathers, on the other hand, often experience just the opposite. They are more likely to better perform across every measure of child well-being than their peers in father-absent homes. NFI believes "father-absence" is a major impediment to the well-being of children and families in America, Pennsylvania is no exception. We come together to explore this issue.

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus — "Making Children & Families the Priority"



Eugene DePasquale, Pennsylvania Auditor General "Fixing Pennsylvania's Broken Child Welfare System"



Dr. Janet Eisenberg Shapiro, Dean and Professor of the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research at Bryn Mawr College - "Fathers Get Stressed Too..."

PANEL PRESENTERS



Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania – **Ms. Kelly M. Hoffman**, Kids Count Director at Pennsylvania Partnership for Children.



Systemic Impediments to Father Involvement – **Dr. David J. Pate Jr.**, Associate Professor, Helen Bader School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



Engaging Fathers and Families through the Lens of Education – **Ms. Carrie Jasper**, Director, Outreach to Parents and Families, Office of Communications and Outreach, U.S. Department of Education.

AFTERNOON ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- Administration of Justice/Public Safety
- Behavioral Health
- Child Support Custody, Services & Enforcement
- Dependent, Delinquent & Crossover Children and Youth
- Early Childhood Development
- Education
- Employment and Training
- Housing, Supervised Independent Living, and Homelessness
- Parent Education/Supportive Services
- Public Health